



---

City of Bloomington  
2022  
ADA Transition Plan

---

## **Table of Contents**

Glossary of Terms.....	2-3
Summary of City Responsibilities-Employment.....	4
Summary of City Responsibilities-(cont).....	5
Application of the ADA to The City of Bloomington.....	6
Notice Under the ADA.....	7
ADA Grievance Procedure.....	8
Transition Plan Elements.....	9
Design Standards and Guidelines.....	10
Five Titles of the ADA.....	11-12
Public Involvement Opportunities.....	13
Officials Responsible.....	14
Implementation Committee.....	15
Mayor and City Council.....	16
Self-Evaluation: Sidewalk and Ramp Replacement.....	14-16
Sidewalk Program.....	17-21
Website Accessibility.....	24
Review and Evaluation.....	25
Transition Plan Updates.....	25

## **Glossary of Terms**

**ADA:** Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Accessible:** A facility that provides access to individuals with disabilities using the design requirements of the ADA.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** A comprehensive, federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disabilities in employment, state, and local government programs, activities, services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG):** The ADAAG contains scoping and technical requirements for accessibility to buildings and public facilities by individuals with disabilities under the ADA.

**American Sign Language (ASL):** is a natural language that serves as the predominant sign language of Deaf communities in the United States.

**Disability:** With respect to an individual: A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.

**Illinois Accessibility Code 2018 (IAC):** This Code is intended to ensure that the built environment, including all spaces and elements of all applicable buildings and facilities in the State of Illinois is so designed, constructed, and/or altered to assure the safety and welfare of all members of society and to be readily accessible to, and usable by, environmentally limited persons.

**Inclusion:** Disability inclusion means understanding the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society and making sure everyone has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires.

**Program, activity, or service:** The programs, activities, and services offered by the City in fulfillment of its mission. It spans all offerings open to any of the audiences served by the City.

**Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines:** (PROWAG) ADA-related facilities in the public right-of-way are defined as a network of streets, sidewalks, and trails creating public pedestrian access within The City of Bloomington limits. Some examples of public rights-of-way include: curb ramps, sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and parking.

**Qualified Individuals with a Disability:** An individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity.

**Reasonable Accommodation:** Making existing facilities used by individuals readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities; and job restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules, reassignment to a vacant position, acquisition or modification of equipment or v devices, appropriate adjustment or modifications of examinations, training materials or policies, the provision of qualified readers or interpreters, and other similar accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

**Self-evaluation:** An assessment of the City's current policies and practices to identify which ones are inconsistent with title II's requirements.

**Transition Plan:** Addresses physical barriers which can limit the accessibility of a City's programs, activities, and services to individuals with disabilities.

**Undue Hardship:** An action requiring significant difficulty or expense.

**United States Department of Justice:** The ADA requires the United States Department of Justice to provide technical assistance to businesses, State and local governments, and individuals with rights or

responsibilities under the law. The Department of Justice may file lawsuits in federal court to enforce the ADA.

### **Summary of City Responsibilities Under Title I of the ADA (Employment)**

The City of Bloomington is an equal opportunity employer and makes all employment decisions without regard to an individual's gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, or any other category protected by local, state, or federal law. Accommodations are provided where appropriate to complete examination or screening.

**Job Descriptions:** Job duties and requirements are reviewed to identify non-essential items and/or to eliminate barriers to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodations within specific positions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

**Job Applications:** Position vacancies are announced through various formats. They are available on the City's employment website at: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityblm/> and on the City's Facebook page.

**Interpreter:** City has implemented a system where various interpreters can be contacted by City of Bloomington personnel to assist in providing services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing if requested by the applicant.

**Interviews:** Employment interviews conducted by The City of Bloomington are conducted in accordance with federal law that protects qualified individuals with disabilities from inquiries designed to identify the existence of an applicant's disability.

**Reasonable Accommodation Requests:** The City of Bloomington has consistently reviewed all requests for reasonable accommodations and has approved such requests unless they have imposed an undue hardship. An individual or his/her representative must let the employer know that an adjustment or change at work is needed for a reason related to a medical condition. An individual does not need to mention the ADA or use the phrase "reasonable accommodation" to receive assistance.

## **Summary of City Responsibilities Under Title II of the ADA**

People with disabilities have too often been excluded from participating in basic civic activities like using the public transportation system, serving on a jury, voting, seeking refuge at an emergency shelter, or simply attending a high school sports event with family and friends. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. Under this law, people with disabilities are entitled to all of the rights, privileges, advantages, and opportunities that others have when participating in civic activities.

Title II of the ADA applies to all State and local governments and all departments, agencies, special purpose districts, and other instrumentalities of State or local government ("public entities"). It applies to all programs, services, or activities of public entities.

Access to civic life by people with disabilities is a fundamental goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To ensure that this goal is met, Title II of the ADA requires State and local governments to make their programs and services accessible to persons with disabilities. This requirement extends not only to physical access at government facilities, programs, and events -- but also to policy changes that governmental entities must make to ensure that all people with disabilities can take part in, and benefit from, the programs and services of State and local governments. In addition, governmental entities must ensure effective communication -- including the provision of necessary auxiliary aids and services so that individuals with disabilities can participate in civic life.

## Application of the ADA to The City of Bloomington

The City of Bloomington is committed to promoting the quality of opportunity for all residents. This document will guide the planning and implementation of necessary programs, facility, and public rights-of-way modifications over the next several years as part of the City's ongoing commitment to the development and maintenance of policies, programs, and facilities that include all residents.

The City of Bloomington is covered under ADA, title I (employment) and title II (programs, activities and services). The ADA requires the city to make all its programs, activities, and services readily accessible and useable by persons with a disability when the programs, activities, and services are viewed in their entirety. The updated self-evaluation and transition plan are cornerstones to documenting and ensuring the City's effort to create and maintain inclusion.

The City's Transition Plan will be updated as non-compliant facilities are upgraded and as policies change. Additionally, other inaccessible features in the public right-of-way may be added when accessibility guidelines are revised. In order to streamline Transition Plan updates and to keep the document current and relevant, attachments will be updated annually if new information is available. When an update is found to alter the intent of the City's Transition Plan, the attachment and affected section(s) will be posted for public review and comment.

It should be noted that in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (Department of Justice, Section 35.151 of 28 CFR Part 35), there is the inclusion of a **safe harbor** clause. It states that "if a public entity has constructed or altered required elements of a path of travel in accordance with the specifications in either the 1991 Standards or the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards before March 15, 2012, the public entity is not required to retrofit such elements to reflect incremental changes in the 2010 Standards solely because of an alteration to a primary function area served by that path of travel." Per the 1990 ADA regulations the City is required to perform a self-evaluation. The self-evaluation is an assessment of the public entity's policies and practices identifying policies and practices inconsistent

with ADA requirements. In addition to a self-evaluation, the City has met the following ADA administrative requirements for public entities:


### **Notice Under the ADA**

The Americans with Disabilities Act In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), The City of Bloomington will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The City of Bloomington will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in The City of Bloomington's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The City of Bloomington will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in The City of Bloomington offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of The City of Bloomington, should contact Michael Hurt, ADA Coordinator by calling:  (309) 434-2218 or via email at [mhurt@cityblm.org](mailto:mhurt@cityblm.org) as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.


The ADA does not require The City of Bloomington to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.



### **Americans with Disabilities Act Grievance Procedure**

This grievance procedure is established to meet the requirements of the ADA. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by The City of Bloomington.

When possible, the complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number, email address of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as phone calls, personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint of the alleged violation should be submitted as soon as possible to the ADA Coordinator at  309-434-2468 or [mhurt@cityblm.org](mailto:mhurt@cityblm.org). You will receive a response within 15 calendar days after your complaint is received. The ADA Coordinator will meet with you to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. You will receive a written response from the ADA Coordinator within 15 calendar days of the meeting. The ADA Coordinator will respond in writing, large print, Braille or audio tape as requested.

If the response from the ADA Coordinator does not resolve the issue to your satisfaction, you may appeal the decision to the City Manager or designee. Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the City Manager or designee will meet with you to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions and will respond in writing in a format that is accessible to you with a final resolution of the complaint.

***The Grievance Complaint form can be found here:***

<https://www.bloomingtonil.gov/residents/community-relations/ada-access-bloomington/grievance-complaint-form>

## **Transition Plan Elements**

The purpose of an ADA transition plan is to identify and address any physical barriers limiting the accessibility of the City's programs, activities and services to individuals with disabilities.

At minimum, an ADA transition plan must also:

1. Develop a grievance procedure,
2. Designate an individual to oversee ADA compliance,
3. Develop a transition plan if structural changes are necessary for achieving program accessibility,
4. Retain its self-evaluation for three years which lists the physical barriers in the City's facilities that limit the accessibility of its services, programs, and activities to individuals with disabilities
5. State the methods to be utilized to remove these barriers and make the facilities accessible
6. Provide a schedule for compliance with Title II. The schedule demonstrates the City's good faith efforts to comply with its Title II requirements. If the time period for achieving compliance is longer than one year, the plan should identify the interim steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period.

This ADA Transition Plan also includes an assessment of communication. The plan includes a high-level timeline and budget for mitigating barriers to communication and physical barriers to accessibility which may be present.

## **Design Standards and Guidelines**

The ADA specifically recognizes the importance of eliminating structural and architectural barriers by requiring all new or altered facilities subject to the ADA to be readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. Covered entities must comply with the Department's ADA regulations, including the ADA Standards for Accessible Design. As the federal guidance and other standards are updated, the City adopts these latest regulations as the minimum standards:

- Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)–Bureau of Design and Environmental Manual
- IDOT Policies–Bureau of Local Roads, Requirements for Accessible Public Rights of Way
- IDOT Highway Standards
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)–Policies & Highway Standards
- American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design (2010)
- Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)
- State of Illinois Capital Development Board (1997 April 24), Illinois Accessibility Code
- United States Access Board–Policies & Highway Standards
- Illinois Accessibility Code 2018 Standards

## **Five Titles of the ADA**

The ADA expands on the foundation laid by Section 504 by prohibiting discrimination based on disability by public entities regardless of whether they receive federal financial assistance. The Act is divided into five titles.

### ***Title I - Equal Employment Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities***

This Title is designed to remove barriers that would deny qualified individuals with disabilities access to the same employment opportunities and benefits available to others without disabilities.

Employers must reasonably accommodate the disabilities of qualified applicants or individuals, unless an undue hardship would result.

### ***Title II - Non-discrimination of Disability in State and Local Government Services***

This Title prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities. The public entity is required to provide access to programs, activities, and services provided by the state or local government, when viewed in their entirety.

### ***Title III - Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disability by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities***

This Title prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by private entities in places of public accommodation. Examples include: hotels, restaurants, golf courses, private schools, day care centers, health center, etc.

### ***Title IV - Telecommunications***

This Title requires telephone companies to have developed interstate and intrastate telephone relay services in every state. The relay services must provide speech-impaired or hearing – impaired individuals opportunities for communication that are equivalent to those provided to other customers. Also covered under this title are television closed-captioning regulations.

### ***Title V - Miscellaneous Provisions***

The final Title contains a variety of provisions relating to the ADA as a whole, including its relationship to other laws and its impact on insurance providers and benefits.


## **Public Involvement Opportunities**

The City of Bloomington is committed to working with community partners and welcomes input from residents and disability advocates.

In accordance with Title II requirements for ADA, a public entity with more than 50 employees must provide an opportunity to interested persons, including individuals with disabilities, to participate in the development of the transition plan by submitting comments.

The City of Bloomington invited comment, questions and concerns from the public via an online accessibility survey that was active for 60 days. At the Government Center on March 4, 2022, following the initial draft of the self-evaluation, a public meeting of an ad hoc group of interested residents, local agencies, and community stakeholders met to review the transition plan and provide comments, suggestions and guidance in finalizing the plans. Additional listening sessions were held at LifeCil on April 28, 2022 and at MarcFirst on September 1, 2022.

A draft of the ADA Transition plan has been published on the city's website. Upon conclusion of these steps, the ADA Transition Plan will be presented to The City of Bloomington for acknowledgement. Subsequent staff review and public involvement will be ongoing. The general public is encouraged to participate in identifying needs or barriers to accessibility.

This may be done by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Michael Hurt at  (309) 434-2468 or email at [mhurt@cityblm.org](mailto:mhurt@cityblm.org).

Notice of a need or barrier may be communicated in person or by mail at The Government Center 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois 61701.

In addition, the general public is invited to attend any Bloomington Board of Public Works and Safety meeting or any Bloomington City Council Meeting to request a need to be addressed or to seek relief from a barrier to access.

The City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays every month at 6:00 PM in the Government Center Chambers on the 4th Floor.

## **Officials Responsible**

For the duration of the self-evaluation and transition plan schedule, the City has designated the ADA Coordinator and the Public Works Director as the officials responsible to oversee the implementation of the ADA Transition Plan. The Public Works Director has been designated responsible for the implementation of the barrier-mitigation schedule within the public rights-of-way; and also support the City's ADA Coordinator, where appropriate, in the planning, prioritization, and coordination of site improvements within City facilities.

The ADA Coordinator shall make reasonable efforts to educate the public regarding rights under the ADA and shall encourage various local institutions and agencies to implement rules and regulations designed to prevent discrimination when performing services, when offering job opportunities or when offering housing.

Any comments, additions, or suggestions about this plan may be directed to the ADA Coordinator or to the Public Works Director.

### **ADA Coordinator**

Michael Hurt, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer (Administration)

115 E. Washington Street

Bloomington, IL 61701



(309) 434-2468

### **Public Works Director**

Kevin Kothe

109 E. Olive Street

Bloomington, IL 61701



(309) 434-2225

## **Implementation Committee**

Multiple City of Bloomington staff members have been responsible for the creation of this plan which will be revised regularly and updated consistently moving forward. Each of these staff members provide essential perspective and communication for different areas of the City's day-to-day operations. The ADA laws require state and local governments to make their goods, services, and facilities accessible to clients, customers, and individuals with disabilities. The following individuals are working together and efficiently to produce the best results for this ADA Transition Plan update:

- Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor
- Tim Gleason, City Manager
- Billy Tyus, Deputy City Manager
- Jeff Jurgens, Corporate Counsel
- Steve Arney, Engineering Technician
- Michael Hurt, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, ADA Coordinator
- Nicole Albertson, Human Resources Director
- Kevin Kothe, Director of Public Works
- Russ Waller, Facilities Manager
- Craig McBeath, Information Services Director
- Darren Wolf, Communications Center Manager
- Eric Veal, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts



## **Mayor and City Council**

The Mayor, City Manager, and City Council have reviewed and endorsed this plan. Those individuals include:

- Mayor- Mboka Mwilambwe
- Council Member Ward 1 – Grant Walch
- Council Member Ward 2 - Donna Boelen- Mayor Pro Tem
- Council Member Ward 3 - Sheila Montney
- Council Member Ward 4 - Julie Emig
- Council Member Ward 5 - Nick Becker
- Council Member Ward 6 – De Urban
- Council Member Ward 7 - Mary "Mollie" Ward
- Council Member Ward 8 - Jeff Crabill
- Council Member Ward 9 - Tom Crumpler

## **Self-Evaluation I:**


Under Title II of the ADA, public entities are required to perform a self-evaluation of their current services, policies and practices regarding accessibility. The goal of the ADA Transition Plan for the City of Bloomington's 2022 self- evaluation is to verify that, in managing its programs and facilities, the city is providing accessibility and not adversely affecting the full participation of individuals with disabilities. The intent of the ADA self-evaluation is to review the city's entire public program, including all facilities on public property and within public rights-of-way, to identify any obstacles or barriers to accessibility that need to be addressed. The general categories of items to be evaluated include:

**1. Transition Plan** – The ADA requires the City to examine each program to determine whether any physical barriers to access exist. The City must identify steps that need to be taken to enable these programs to be made accessible when viewed in their entirety. If structural changes are necessary, they should be included in the transition plan (see II-8.3000). The self-evaluation process was conducted in August thru October of 2022 utilizing the 2010 ADA Standards Title II document as the standard for the evaluation.

**2. Program Access-** The City must review its policies and practices to determine whether any exclude or limit the participation of individuals with disabilities in its programs, activities, or services. Such policies or practices must be modified, unless they are necessary for the operation or provision of the program, service, or activity. The self- evaluation should identify policy modifications to be implemented and include complete justifications for any exclusionary or limiting policies or practices that will not be modified.

**3. Communications with Persons with Disabilities-** A public entity should review its policies to ensure that it communicates with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities in a manner that is as effective as its communications with others. If a public entity communicates with applicants and beneficiaries by telephone, it should ensure that TDD's or equally effective telecommunication systems are used to communicate with individuals with impaired hearing or speech. Finally, if a public entity provides telephone emergency services, it should review its policies to ensure direct access to individuals who use TDD's and computer modems.

“Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and may require a reasonable accommodation to observe or participate, or those with questions about the accessibility of the meeting, should contact ADA

Coordinator Michael Hurt at  309-434-2468 or [mhurt@cityblm.org](mailto:mhurt@cityblm.org) .”

**4. Auxiliary Aids and Services-** The City reviews its policies to ensure that they include provisions for readers for individuals with visual impairments; interpreters or other alternative communication measures, as appropriate, for individuals with hearing impairments; and amanuenses for individuals with manual impairments. The City had developed a method for securing these services including guidance on when and where these services will be provided, particularly for individuals with hearing, visual, and manual impairments.

**5. Emergency Preparedness** - Emergency communications have greater requirements for accessibility so that everyone can respond to an emergency. The City participates in the Illinois Premise Alert Program (Public Act 96-0788) provides for Public Safety Agencies in the State of Illinois to allow individuals to provide information to Police, Fire and EMS personnel to be kept in a database. The information can then be provided to responders dealing with a particular situation. The City also maintains a list of qualified American Sign Language interpreters who are able to provide equal and effective communication to individuals who are hearing impaired. Real time captioning and audio description are also available. The Premise Alert Program can be found on the City’s website listed here.

<https://www.cityblm.org/government/departments/police/premise-alert-program>

**6. Language Sensitivity** -The City reviews its written and audio-visual materials to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not portrayed in an offensive or demeaning manner.

**7. Historic Preservation** - Alterations to a qualified historic building or facility must comply with 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design unless it is determined in accordance with procedures described in Section 35.150 (a) that compliance with certain requirements would threaten or destroy the historic significance of the building or facility in which case alternative methods of compliance would then be provided.

**8. Fundamental Alterations Services-** Services, programs, and activities must be accessible to individuals with disabilities unless doing so would fundamentally alter a program, activity or service or result in undue financial or administrative burdens. A fundamental alteration is a change so significant it alters the essential nature of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations offered. Accessibility can then be achieved in other ways (e.g., relocate the program or activity to an accessible facility; provide the activity, services, or benefit in another manner that meets ADA requirements.

**9. Access to Public Meetings** -The City must review its policies and procedures to ensure individuals with mobility impairments are provided access to public meetings. Should the City become aware of issues limiting or preventing access, corrective action to address the barrier will be a priority.

*Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend the council, board or commission meetings and may require a reasonable accommodation to observe or participate, or those with questions about the*

*accessibility of the meeting, should contact ADA Coordinator at  309-434-2468 or email at [mhurt@cityblm.org](mailto:mhurt@cityblm.org).*

**10. Employment Practices** – The City will review its employment practices to ensure that they comply with other applicable nondiscrimination requirements, including section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA regulation issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The ADA prohibits discrimination in all employment practices, including job application procedures, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.

**11. Building and Construction** -The City will review building and construction policies to ensure the construction of new facilities or parts of a facility, or the alteration of existing facilities after March 15, 2012, conforms to standards designated under the ADA Title II regulations. All building construction projects are reviewed for compliance with the 2010 ADA Title II Standards for Accessible Design and the Illinois Accessibility Code. Construction projects in the public right-of-way are reviewed for compliance with Proposed Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).

**12. ADA Training for Staff** -A review should ascertain whether measures have been taken to ensure employees are familiar with the policies and practices for the full participation of individuals with disabilities. Employees will receive recurring training on the ADA will be conducted through qualified educators or community partners, as well as by the ADA Coordinator.

**13. Drug Usage** - If the City limits or denies participation in its programs, activities, or services based on drug usage, it should make sure that such policies do not discriminate against former drug users, as opposed to individuals who are currently engaged in illegal use of drugs. The ADA requires persons who formerly engaged in the use of illegal drugs be protected from discrimination if they have been rehabilitated and are no longer using drugs illegally.

## Sidewalk & Ramp Replacement

This program is designed to provide for construction of sidewalks and ramps that are compliant with standards related to the Americans with Disabilities Act. It includes other sidewalk repairs, and projects in which property owners voluntarily enter a 50 percent sharing agreement.

In the five completed budget years since City Council passage of the Sidewalk Master Plan in October 2015, the Program has funded construction of approximately 993 ramps.

Additional public sidewalk improvements have been funded through grants, private development, the street resurfacing program, and City projects funded through other contracts, such as the 2020 Hershey Road contract for concrete work.

Fiscal Year	Square feet of sidewalk	Estimated miles of sidewalk	Estimated number of ramps
FY 22	65,687	2.76	178
FY 21	74,663	3.14	83
FY 20	67,235	2.83	109
FY 19	63,200	2.66	210
FY 18	69,394	2.92	152
FY 17	78,478	3.30	261
<b>6-YEAR TOTAL</b>	<b>351,422</b>	<b>16.61</b>	<b>993</b>

The primary mechanism is the Sidewalk Program. Funded through local motor fuel tax, the Program funds roughly three miles of concrete sidewalk replacement per year to make sidewalks compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A major element of the Program is construction of ramps, which connect sidewalks to street crosswalks. The city creates new ramps where needed and replaces ramps that do not meet modern ADA standards, as determined by the U.S. Access Board and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The City is in its seventh year of a 10-year Sidewalk Master Plan. The funding level has equated to a service level envisioned in that plan. In the past, low funding levels meant patching problem areas, with Public Works having to leave other nearby problems unaddressed. In many cases now, the City is able to solve sidewalk problems for a half-block or entire block, rather than at just one property occupied by a person with a disability.

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>SIDEWALK PROGRAM FUNDING</b>
FY-2022	\$1,097,093
FY-2021	\$903,660
FY-2020	\$693,177
FY-2019*	\$956,167
FY-2018	\$818,926
FY-2017**	\$899,244
FY-2016	\$422,877
FY-2015***	\$1,107,109
FY-2014	\$675,000
FY-2013	\$243,853
FY-2012	\$111,774
FY-2011	\$99,990
FY-2010	\$119,586
FY-2009	\$71,111
FY -2008	\$73,915
FY-2007	\$70,449
FY-2006	\$82,782
FY-2005	\$73,787
FY-2004	\$72,552
FY 2003	\$65,998
* Bid was approximately \$250,000 below estimate and budget. Remainder used for S. Hershey.	
**First year under Sidewalk Master Plan.	
***\$10 Million street bond included funds for sidewalk ramps.	

Starting in calendar year 2020, Public Works began directly collaborating with Connect Transit, with the City using Program funds to construct bus pads at Connect Transit bus stops where sidewalk work is being done.

Bloomington's city government has aggressively pursued improvement to its public sidewalk system in recent years. Starting in 2015 and continuing to the present, a consistent, high level of funding and public support from the City Council and Administration has enabled Bloomington Public Works to rehab large sections of the 425-miles of sidewalks.



### **Monitor Progress**

Each year the City will document the following information:

- Number of existing sidewalk or multi-use path ramps replaced
- Number of new sidewalk ramps constructed
- Linear feet or mileage of existing sidewalk repaired or replaced
- Linear feet or mileage of new sidewalk constructed
- Linear feet or mileage of new multi-use path constructed



## Website Accessibility

The ADA requires that government websites have accessible features for people with disabilities. A city with an inaccessible website may also meet its legal obligations by providing an alternative accessible way for citizens to use the programs or services, such as a staffed telephone information line. These alternatives, however, are unlikely to provide an equal degree of access in terms of hours of operation and the range of options and programs available. The City of Bloomington is committed to making its websites accessible to the widest possible audience. We are constantly working to increase the accessibility and usability of our website. We strive to meet W3C WAI's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Level AA conformance. If you use assistive technology (such as a Braille reader, a screen reader, or TTY) and the format of any material on this website interferes with your ability to access information, please <mailto:>contact the ADA Coordinator at  309-434-2468 or email [mhurt@cityblm.org](mailto:mhurt@cityblm.org). Users who need accessibility assistance can also contact us by phone through the Federal Information Relay Service at  1-800-877-8339 for TTY/Voice communication.

[Latest version of JAWS for Windows](#)

[Latest version of NVDA for Windows](#)

The City complies with [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act](#) and [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#) for website accessibility standards.

[Internet Explorer Accessibility Information](#)

[Firefox Accessibility Information](#)

[Chrome Accessibility Information](#)

Adobe Reader may be required to view or print PDF documents that appear on this website. A free download of Adobe Reader may be obtained at <https://www.adobe.com/acrobat/pdf-reader.html>

## **Review and Evaluation**

The City will review and update the ADA Transition Plan as needed to reflect changes in real world conditions and to address any possible new areas of non-compliance. The ADA Transition Plan is a “living” document which will be revised regularly and updated consistently moving forward. In January of each year, commencing in 2023, Bloomington City Council or their designee shall meet with the ADA Coordinator to review the City’s efforts to comply with the ADA and to update the foregoing Plan. Progress shall be noted, and the Plan shall be evaluated for the purpose of determining its effectiveness. Modifications to the Plan may be recommended by the City Council, if deemed necessary or appropriate.

## **Transition Plan Updates**

The City of Bloomington’s staff continues to monitor city facilities for compliance. This plan is based on current ADA requirements at a point in time but should be seen as a living document that could change based on the following:

- Changes to ADA standards or legal requirements.
- Listed items either being addressed or items that become non-compliant over time.

Additionally, other inaccessible features in the public right-of-way may be added when accessibility guidelines are revised. In order to streamline Transition Plan updates and to keep the document current and relevant, attachments will be updated annually if new information is available. When an update is found to alter the intent of The City of Bloomington’s Transition Plan, the attachment and affected section(s) will be posted for public review and comment. The Transition Plan update schedule may be altered at the discretion of The City of Bloomington based on guideline changes from the United States Access Board, FHWA policy, or The City of Bloomington policy.

The City of Bloomington is committed to addressing the barriers identified in the self-evaluation. With the existing condition of the non-compliant facilities identified in the self-evaluation, the City implemented an aspirational timeframe of two years to make all facilities compliant to the maximum extent feasible. The funding and scheduling of accessibility improvements will continue concurrently with The City of Bloomington’s routine construction program.

